

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6258

BILL NUMBER: SB 211

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 22, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Study Committees.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Miller

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: The bill establishes 18 specified legislative study committees effective January 1, 2007. It requires all legislative studies authorized after December 31, 2006, to be assigned to one of the legislative study committees.

The bill provides that a legislative study committee consists of 12 members, 6 appointed from each house of the General Assembly and equally divided between the political parties. The bill also provides that the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may each appoint two additional members to a study committee. It requires that 12 members of a legislative study committee must be appointed from the standing committees that have subject matter jurisdiction over the topic of the study.

It also provides general procedures for the operation of a legislative study committee. The bill provides that a topic assigned to a legislative entity before January 1, 2007, may be reassigned to a new study committee when the original entity expires, is repealed, or has its expiration date extended.

Effective Date: January 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would have indeterminate fiscal impact on expenditures for study committees. The bill could provide potential savings if the amount of salary per diem and expense reimbursement can be reduced by reducing the number of committees, the number of committee members, or by reducing the number of committee meetings. The Legislative Council sets the budget for current study committees and, under the bill, could set budgets for the proposed study committees.

Background Information: During the 2005 interim, 34 committees met with a combined expenditure of \$184,172 for salary per diem, mileage, and travel expenses. Currently, committees have between 8 and 16 members, and in the past interim, each committee was allotted a budget of \$9,500 or \$16,500, depending on the number of members. In some cases, not all members of current study committees are members of the General Assembly.

Under the bill, there would be 18 study committees with 12 members each, although an additional 4 members could be appointed. The committee members would be selected from among the members of related standing committees, and topics would be assigned to the committees based on subject matter. Also, the Legislative Council could reassign topics from committees that are established in statute but expire or are repealed or that have their date of expiration extended. Subject to the Legislative Council's policies, the committees would meet at the call of the chair. To the extent that the committees would meet at the call of the chair and the distance that members would travel to attend meetings is unknown, expenses for the 18 study committees is indeterminate.

Both under current practice and under the bill, Legislative Services Agency provides staff and administrative support for the study committees.

The following committees are established under the bill: (1) Agricultural and Rural Issues; (2) Children, Families, and Human Affairs; (3) Commerce and Economic Development; (4) Courts and Criminal Code; (5) Education; (6) Elections; (7) Financial Institutions; (8) Government Organization and Planning; (9) Health; (10) Insurance; (11) Judiciary and Civil Law; (12) Labor and Pensions; (13) Natural Resources; (14) Public Policy; (15) Environment; (16) Homeland Security and Transportation; (17) State and Local Government Affairs; and (18) Tax and Finance.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: General Assembly.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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